



COMMUNITY OF GRACE

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Journey to the Center of Grace: A Four Week Prayer Adventure

Week 3

*God our Savior showed us how good and kind he is.
He saved us because of his mercy,
and not because of any good things that we have done.
(Titus 3:4-5)*

Hey, Grace'rs,

*During the month of August, I am inviting you on an adventure of prayer...an adventure of following Jesus into the center of grace. Fall is a time of new beginnings and new schedules, and provides a chance for us to align our lives with God's grace. I hope you will use this as a "family dinner time" discussion this week with your kids, your spouse, with a group of friends, or even as a meal time devotion by yourself.
(Take turns reading the following devotion. You may want to come back to this again in a few days at another family dinner to see what new insights God has inspired in you.)*

The Bible tells us that there is absolutely nothing we can do to earn God's love. God gives us that love as a lavish, free gift vividly seen through the death and resurrection of Jesus.

That leads to a big question for those of us who follow Jesus: Now that you don't have to do anything to earn God's love, what are you going to do?

Martin Luther suggests that the answer to that question is to love our neighbors as we love ourselves. Because we're already loved and accepted by God through Christ, and no longer have to worry about our relationship with God, we can now turn that love of God outward toward those in need.

With that question in mind, wrestle together with the following (paraphrased) quote from J.R. Daniel Kirk:

Understanding that the Jesus story is not just Jesus becoming Lord of my heart, but rather that Jesus is Lord of the entire universe, opens up a broad view of what it looks like to follow Jesus.

Such a story demands that we consider not only our church attendance and Bible reading as more or less faithfully living out the Christian story, but also our spending, saving, and giving of money; our use, abuse, and sustaining of the earth and its resources; our ignoring, engaging, helping, or abusing of people who are impoverished; and our honesty, self-giving, self-serving, and avoidance in relationships with other people. In each of these areas, we are confronted with the question: Is my life, and the life of my community of faith, faithfully expressing the story of Jesus?

Prayer Time:

What does grace look like?

What does it look like for me/us to follow Jesus in response to that grace?

How does my life, our household, reflect the story of God's reckless grace and mercy as seen in Jesus?

Pastor 

Pastor Tim